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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktika Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Paktika from January 2002 - June 2011: \$81.7 million

Estimated population: 387,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Sharan

Note: U.S.-led PRT



The remote, arid province of Paktika shares a long, unsecure border with Pakistan and is one of the country's most remote provinces. Paktika's Pashto-speaking populations consist mainly of Ghilzai and Kurlani tribal communities, and the province lacks basic infrastructure. The high desert landscape has been deforested over time, and subsistence farming and animal husbandry continue to be the main forms of livelihood. In addition, Paktika's 400-mile border with Pakistan is a porous conduit for Taliban activity, which has hindered regional stability and many development efforts.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved irrigation, agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, and training.

Current Activities:

- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Provide regular technical assistance to orchard beneficiaries in order to enhance their capacity for orchard management

Accomplishments:

- Trained para-veterinarians and established nine veterinary field units
- Rehabilitated two canals and two dams to provide a reliable water supply to farmers
- Facilitated the integration of water resource management into the rehabilitation of upper watersheds and natural resource management activities
- Established 14 hectares of orchards
- Registered 35 farmers with 14ha of land for orchard establishment
- Provided seven training sessions to strengthen commercial agricultural opportunities
- Distributed seed and fertilizer to local farmers
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law



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- Established 406 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques for 1,194 farmers

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of public services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports the justice sector, media, and civil-society in Paktika Province.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Support a radio station
- Provide training to the provincial council, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership.
- Provide assistance to improve the ability of the mayor and municipal staff to respond to citizen needs and to provide essential public services such as power, water, sanitation, safe roads, and waste management.
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations

Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 10 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 11 sitting judges providing judges with access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education, voter registration, election candidate training, and election monitoring for the 2004-2005 elections
- Provided a grant to the Afghan Women's Educational Center to carry out self-sufficiency and advocacy training for women



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- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity-building training to two civil-society organizations
- Established one radio station
- Awarded nine grants
- Trained 56 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development in Paktika Province through supporting small and medium enterprises and expanding access to telecommunications.

Current Activities:

- Support the Minister of Finance's (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates

Accomplishments:

- Installed five district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Paktika Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Trained 27 Paktika officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities
- Customs staff received training on customs legislation, valuation, tariffs, and procedures for monitoring the Pakistan border to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Installed solar lights in three markets to increase marketplace safety and extend business hours
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$72,100 in medium-sized loans through USAID-funded financial institutions



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- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Paktika Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Paktika Province through national education projects. USAID provides radio-based teacher support programs, textbook support, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Constructed six schools
- Printed 563,483 textbooks

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Paktika Province preventative healthcare come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations, pre-service and refresher training for community midwives and community health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support 27 health facilities to implement BPHS and EPHS
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in three sentinel sites
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Urgon District, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or scaling-up community based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of tuberculosis by community health workers



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- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Establish provincial quality assurance committee to ensure skilled healthcare providers
- Launch a community-based midwifery training program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Construct a 20 bed hospital in Khair Kot district to provide improved healthcare to residents of the province
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians
- Fund province-wide Community Health Worker pre-service and refresher training

Accomplishments:

- Trained 14,900 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Established two model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at \$970,000
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create legal economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Paktika Province focuses on the maintenance of roads while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the local economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the Ghazni to Sharan Road and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors

Accomplishments:

- Constructed or refurbished 57 wells to increase access to clean water, improving the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Upgraded the 21 km Mest Khel-Ghundakay Road into an engineered gravel road
- Improved the Sharan Airstrip, more effectively connecting residents to the country and region
- Constructed the Ghazni to Sharan Road, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions
- Supported displaced people returning to the province by providing temporary shelter and reconstructing houses
- Upgraded 15 km of the road from Yahya Khel to Khayer Kot to improve access to economic opportunities and social services for the villagers



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STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support events, such as open houses, sports events, district governor tours and district educational tours designed to connect district officials with their constituents
- Support local agricultural enterprises through the provision of training and materials in specific disciplines, such as bee-keeping and slaughterhouse management
- Increase the capacity of the Barmel District government to deliver services to its constituents
- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Conduct vocational training for vulnerable groups, such as women, refugees and the physically disabled in Sharana and Khair Kot Castle districts
- Provide expertise on district schools and what interventions are needed to support the Department of Education
- Support a comprehensive package of community-selected and implemented stabilization grants to include irrigation and road rehabilitation in Waza Khwa and Khair Kot Castle districts
- Deliver small business, shelter, and assistance kits to war-affected families
- Support events such as stability jirgas and agricultural fairs designed to connect the Afghan government, particularly district officials, with their constituents

Accomplishments:

- Increased the ability of 60 women to provide for themselves and their families through vocational training in tailoring
- Conducted a renewable energy assessment of key institutions
- Supported the refurbishment of dormitory space for district officials in Sharana District, thus encouraging more frequent interaction with the provincial government
- Constructed the border control checkpoint in Barmel on the Afghan-Pakistan border to improve regional security and boost revenue for the customs department
- Improved government service delivery through the placement of technical advisors in six key government offices, providing mentoring, on-the-job training and capacity-building skills
- Helped 6,700 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Provided capacity-building, technical training, and mentoring for the governor's office, Provincial Development Council, and provincial ministries
- Facilitated the formation of agricultural shuras (councils) to connect the Directorate of Agriculture with communities to discuss common problems and find community-supported solutions
- Rehabilitated and delivered livelihoods support assistance kits to 43 war-affected families in the village of Ibrahim Kariz